

Eric Renner  
EDITION

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# PINHOLE PHOTOGRAPHY

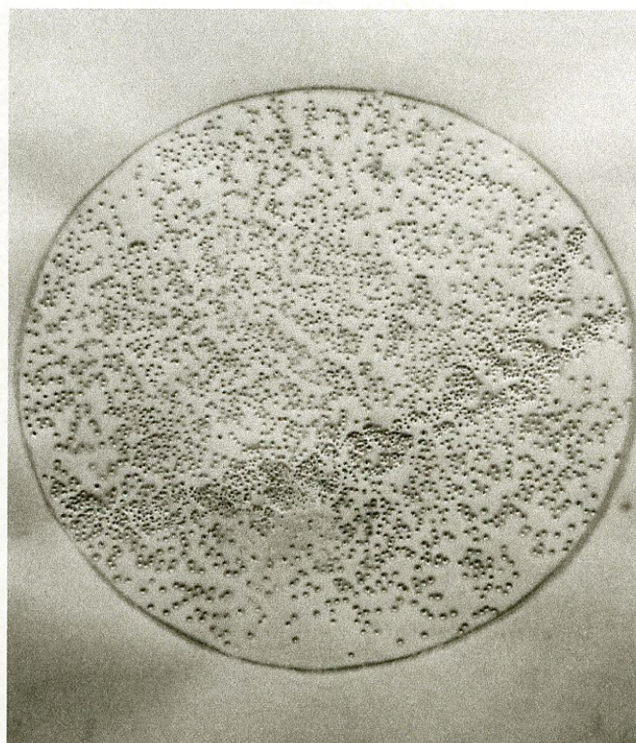
From Historic Technique to Digital Application





**FIGURE 1.39A**

© Dianne Bos, *M51 by Candlelight*, from series *Galaxy*, 20 × 16-inch pinhole photograph, 1999. From the collection at Pinhole Resource.

**FIGURE 1.39B**

© Dianne Bos, aperture plate for stars visible to the naked eye, from series *Galaxy*, 2002. Lens photograph. From the collection of the photographer.

I've been experimenting for some time on how I could explore these ideas with a pinhole camera. I couldn't get into space so I had to invent my own pinhole camera that could recreate what the source of these pinpricks of light might be. This wasn't an easy task but eventually I arrived with an image that at a glance looked just like photographs of outer space and then at closer inspection made you laugh. In fact these are the most conceptual photographs I've ever produced. Images for a new folk cosmology mythologizing the nature of light itself.

This series began with a candle. It seemed the most poetic and spiritual of 'original' light sources. If we look far enough into space, what do we see? A million candles dotting the night sky. But it is only one candle appearing as many. Each view slightly different depending on the size of the pinhole and the location on the pinhole plane. I tried to follow the star charts quite accurately when creating these galaxy images. The location and size of each pinhole corresponds to a real star [Figure 1.39B]. The brighter the star, the bigger the pinhole and consequently the brighter and more obscure the image taken with that pinhole. There are a couple images where I placed my hand behind the candle. My ghostly hand protecting the light from blowing out only appears with some of the brighter candle images. I've also used the moon, light bulbs and TV sets as light sources. One of my favorite images is Galaxy M51 made up of hundreds of tiny  $E = MC^2$ , taken from a TV show on Einstein.

To get back to travel—I guess space travel is the final frontier. We are itching to see what's out there. That's why we send expensive little camera units to Mars and get real disappointed when they crash. It's the potential for surprise waiting beyond the next hill that keeps us going.<sup>38</sup>